MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

30 MARCH 1983

Syria

Al-Kasm on Israel -- "An aggression against Syria is possible and expected, but we in Syria can confidently say that we are ready for this," Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm told the Council of Ministers in remarks reported by Damascus radio. He discussed the escalation of Israeli threats against Syria and declared that these threats are closely linked with U.S. plans to strike at the "Arab will" through an Israeli aggression.

Syrian-Soviet Joint Statement -- Syria and the USSR denounced the "uproar" that Israel is making with the support of the United States and the campaign of threats against Syria because of the "justifiable and legitimate measures" taken by the Syrian leadership to strengthen Syria's defense capability, according to a Damascus television broadcast of the joint statement issued following the visit of a Supreme Soviet Presidium delegation led by Presidium Deputy Chairman Temirbek Koshoyev. The two sides demanded an immediate end to the Israeli "aggression" against Lebanon and the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanese territory. They asserted that the United States "shares the responsibility" for Israel's anti-Arab acts and that it is exploiting Israel's aggression against Lebanon in order to entrench the U.S. military presence there. Syria and the USSR affirmed their desire to promote bilateral cooperation in all areas and to strengthen friendship.

Turkish Foreign Minister's Visit -- President Hafiz al-Asad received Turkish Foreign Minister Ilter Turkmen and discussed bilateral relations with him, Damascus radio reported.

Lebanon

Tripartite Negotiations -- After meeting with presidential envoy Philip Habib, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan warned that Lebanon is no longer willing to continue in a "vicious circle" and is not prepared to make further concessions in the negotiations, according to remarks broadcast by Beirut radio. Habib brought "nothing new" to or from Lebanon, Al-Wazzan said. In another development Foreign Minister Elie Salim sent a written message on the negotiations to Secretary of State George Shultz, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

IDF Casualties -- An IDF soldier was killed and two others were wounded when their patrol was ambushed east of Beirut late on 28 March, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement carried by ITIM. Another IDF soldier was wounded in an ambush near Tyre, according to the same source.

PLO Affairs

Officials' Activities -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and expressed the PLO's appreciation for Iraq's support for the Palestinian cause, INA reported. The president asserted that Iraq will continue its "unstinted support" for the just struggle of the Palestinian people with all available resources despite its war with Iran. Later, 'Arafat arrived in Kuwait via Bahrain for a meeting with Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, KUNA announced. In a statement to journalists he denied that Palestinian-Algerian mediation is taking place to end the Iraq-Iran war and stated that the aim of his visit to Baghdad was to hold talks with the Iraqi president and brief him on Palestinian issues, KUNA noted. In another development, Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, left Amman for Damascus, Radio Monte Carlo announced.

Jibril on POW's -- Ahmad Jibril, commander of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command (PFLP-GC), declared that he "categorically rejects" allowing anyone to visit the two Israeli POW's held by his Front, according to Radio Monte Carlo. During a meeting with an Austrian official, Jibril said any visit to the Israeli POW's is contingent on Israel's admitting that it holds 112 PFLP-GC POW's in Israeli prisons, the radio added.

Habash Health -- The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) has denied a NEWSWEEK report that PFLP leader George Habash "is dying in Damascus." PFLP official Bassam Abu Sharif declared that Habash is in good health and is carrying out his tasks fully, the London paper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reported.

West Bank Illness

The mysterious illness afflicting Arab girl students from a Janin school was not caused by poisoning or nerve gas and is best explained as a "psychosomatic" chain reaction "totally unrelated to organic factors," IDF Radio reported citing remarks by the Israeli Health Ministry director general. Meanwhile, PLO Executive Committee Chairman 'Arafat described the "poisoning" of the girls as "genocide" and an attempt to affect their fertility, KUNA reported.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Jordan's King Husayn met with Oman's Sultan Qabus in Amman, and the two sides stressed their support for the steadfastness of the Palestinian people and criticized Israel's settlement policy, Amman television reported. Husayn reviewed the results of recent Arab political moves and the two leaders also discussed bilateral relations, the television noted. Meanwhile, M'hamed Boucetta, Moroccan minister of state for foreign affairs, is currently in Algeria on an "unannounced visit" to prepare for an Arab seven-member committee summit conference, KUNA disclosed.

Algerian political sources denied Libyan claims that the two countries signed agreements "paving the way for integration" during Libyan Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud's visit to Algiers, AFP reported. The sources said President Chadli Bendjedid reiterated Algeria's "traditional position on union between the two countries" which would be based on positive good neighborliness and the strengthening of economic, social, and cultural cooperation, AFP added.

Oil Pollution Talks

Officials of the Kuwait convention on Gulf marine environment protection held talks with Iranian officials in Tehran on ways to prevent damage from the oil slick caused by Iraqi attacks on Iran's Nowruz oilfield, Tehran radio reported. The head of Iran's environmental protection organization said afterward in remarks broadcast by the radio that the convention officials had approved Iran's proposal on the issue and that the convention will convene a "council of ministers" session in the near future. Iranian Oil Ministry experts have thus far been unable to stem the oil flow into the Gulf because of the military situation, he indicated.

The UAE heir apparent meanwhile asked the UAE's supreme environmental protection committee to intensify action to combat pollution caused by the oil slick, WAM reported.

Iran-Syria

During talks in Tehran, Syrian and Iranian economic and trade officials reviewed bilateral commercial and oil agreements and discussed ways to send greater numbers of Iranian pilgrims to Syria, IRNA reported.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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SOVIET, GOVERNMENT FORCES LAUNCH SPRING OFFENSIVE

BK291359 Hong Kong AFP in English 1322 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Islamabad, March 25 (AFP) -- Soviet and Afghan Government forces have launched a spring offensive around Qandahar in the south and in other areas of Afghanistan, Western diplomatic sources said here today.

They said fierce fighting occurred recently in the Qandahar area, where rebel activity was high. The Soviet-Afghan garrison in Kandahar, Afghanistan's second city, had launched a series of operations against rebel-occupied villages used as bases for attacks on government military convoys.

The sources cited an attack by a Soviet motorised column on March 14 against two villages west of Qandahar to quell a threat to the Herat highway. They said the fighting had severely disorganised supplies for Qandahar, which was now only supplied by mule train. In the city itself, the resistance had been carrying out regular operations and early this month killed 10 Afghan communists.

There was also fighting in Balkh Province in northern Afghanistan, where Major Zabiullah, one of the most active resistance leaders, was reported in difficulty.

Unconfirmed reports from Peshawar meanwhile told of a fourth rebel attack in a few months against Jalalabad airport, east of Kabul. Government forces repelled the attack. About 100 rebels were reportedly wounded after rocketing the airport, damaging five planes.

Around Kabul, the rebels appeared to be on the offensive. Jamiat Eslami troops attacked three government posts Friday on the Shomali plain north of Kabul, and also reportedly blew up two bridges on the road linking Kabul to the Soviet frontier.

In the area north of the Salang tunnel, the diplomats said, the resistance claimed to have cut the highway for several days running early this month.

South of Kabul, near Ghazni, 15 Afghan soldiers were reported killed in an ambush against a food convoy, Western diplomats said.

There was also fighting in Paktia and Paktika Provinces bordering Pakistan, including a "major battle" in the small town of Urgun, 20 km (12 miles) from the frontier.

SPA REPORTS ON REBELS' MILITARY SUCCESSES

LD292350 Riyadh SPA in English 1924 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Islamabad, March 29 SPA -- The mujahideen have recaptured (Khakrez) District 50 km north of Qandahar in a major offensive on March 3, Western diplomatic sources said here today. The sources said the mujahideen had also blown up a government armoured personnel carrier in Varaqeh-ye Javajeh, near Kandhar city on March 15. Nearly ten ruling Communist Party activists were killed in the offensive, they added.

The sources said the mujahideen had intensified their resistance in Afghanistan's southern and eastern provinces such as Paktia and Ghazni. The sources said the mujahideen destroyed three Soviet armoured personnel carriers and grounded several military posts in Qarah Bagh town, 40 km north of Kabul in (Shomali) area on March 23. The Afghan ruling regime has failed to ensure regular supply of electricity and fuel to Kabul for the last four months, they added. Meanwhile a major battle was also reported by diplomats in eastern Paktia Province in which a number of the regime's troops were killed, the sources said.

GANDHI DEPARTS FOR 3-DAY VISIT TO ASSAM 30 MARCH

BK300746 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] The prime minister left for Assam a short while ago on her 3-day visit to some of the affected areas in the state. Mrs Gandhi will visit relief camps in Goalpara, Darrang, Nowgong, and Lakhimpur districts. Mrs Gandhi will have discussions with the state governor, chief minister, and top officials on the situation in the state.

GANDHI DENIES ENVOY TESTIFIED TO CONGRESS COMMITTEE

BK300800 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] The prime minister categorically denied in the Lok Sabha today that the Indian ambassador in the United States, Mr Narayanan, has testified before a U.S. congressional committee on the Assam situation. During the question hour, a Janata member of Parliament referred to the report appearing in newspapers in this regard. Another opposition member of Parliament drew the prime minister's attention to attempts to raise the Assam situation in the United Nations and other international forums.

Mrs Gandhi said such attempts have been made by people who want to create animosity toward India. She assured the house that government will take appropriate action.

The prime minister said what has happenend in Assam is deplorable and must be condemned in strong terms. However, these things should be seen in a proper perspective and nothing should be done or said which will vitiate the atmosphere, she added.

25,000 PERSONS ARRIVE IN WEST BENGAL FROM ASSAM

BK300853 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Home Minister P.C. Sethi informed the [lower] house that about 25,000 persons have arrived in West Bengal due to disturbance in Assam. He said the center has initially agreed to provide financial assistance to West Bengal Government for running relief camps for a period of 1 month. Sethi said efforts are being made to create conditions for the safe return of the refugees.

ASSAM POLICE PERSONNEL SUSPENDED AFTER INCIDENT

BK291622 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] The Assam chief minister, Mr Hiteshwar Saikia, today visited Borgoria village in Golaghat subdivision where 10 persons were killed and several others injured in a violent mob attack on Sunday night. The chief minister was accompanied by the chief secretary, Mr Ramesh Chandra, and other senior police and civil officials. He met the injured at the hospital and assured the affected people of more help.

The state government has placed under suspension the personnel of a section of the Assam police who were posted in the area for their failure to give protection to the people. Security measures in the area have been tightened.

Meanwhile, an incident of arson has been reported from Barpeta subdivision in Kamrup District. Official reports from Gauhati say that 31 houses were set on fire by miscreants at (Borjana) village last evening rendering several families homeless.

BARRICADE REMOVED FROM ROAD TO SIKH TEMPLE

BK291615 Hong Kong AFP in English 1541 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] New Delhi, March 29 (AFP) -- Authorities removed the main barricade blocking the road to the "GOlden Temple" of Punjab's Sikh community last night, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported today. PTI quoted official sources at Amritsar saying the barricade had been "damaged" by a vehicle belonging to the para-military central reserve police force. However, the barricade's removal immediately followed a warning by Sant Harchand Singh Longowal yesterday. He said volunteers from Akali Dal, the community political party, would forcibly move all the barricades if authorities did not do so within 24 hours. He also said they would stage demonstrations by the barricades.

"The Sikhs never tolerated such barricades during the Moghul period. Nor will we do it now," he declared while addressing a largely Sikh congregation at the famous Golden Temple at Amritsar.

The temple complex was barricaded after officials claimed that Sikh extremists were hiding on the grounds and were planning an escape using arms allegedly stored there.

Sant Longowal, whose party leads the autonomy movement of the Sikhs in the state bordering Pakistan, said he had received many reports of pilgrims and devotees coming to the "Golden Temple" being harassed and terrorised. Women among them were being "humiliated by policemen" at the barricades.

Meanwhile, Akali supporters reportedly persuaded shopkeepers, particularly Sikhs, in Amritsar to close their businesses to participate in a religious ceremony organised in connection with the death of Hardev Singh, a follower of militant Sikh leader Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale. Hardev Singh was killed allegedly in a police encounter March 16 near Amritsar. Shops around the Golden Temple were closed today.

With tension prevailing in the city, authorities have taken precautionary measures to prevent violence during the traditional procession of "nihangs" (Sikh temple guards) who were to be removed today from the Golden Temple, PTI said.

3 KERELA MEMBERS SUSPENDED FOR 'UNRULY BEHAVIOR'

BK300219 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] The Kerala Assembly today suspended three more opposition members from the house for the remaining period of the current session for unruly behavior. They belong to the Communist Party of India-Marxist, All India Muslim League, and the Janata Party.

For the second consecutive day today, the house witnessed uproarious scenes. The speaker had to adjourn the house immediately after it assembled. After 2 and 1/2 hours, the house reassembled again amidst a tense situation with opposition members still standing in the well of the house.

The opposition leader, Mr E.K. Nayanar, objected to the presence of the watch and ward staff inside the house. The house then proceeded with official business. A resolution was adopted. It urged the center to supply the required quantity of rice to the state every month to maintain the full ration quota and allow the civil supplies corporation to buy rice from surplus states.

Before the house met this morning there was a scuffle between the opposition members and the watch and ward staff in the portico of the Assembly building. Some members were injured in the melee. Three members of legislature and nine watch and ward staff have been hospitalized.

OFFICIALS DISCUSS OIL SPILL IN PERSIAN GULF

GF281658 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA -- The director of the regional organisation for marine environment protection, 'Abd al-Latif az-Zaydan, arrived here Monday to discuss with Iranian officials the current oil spill threatening the regional countries of the Persian Gulf.

In Kuwait 'Ali Shams Ardakani, Iranian ambassador to that country, told IRNA that the Islamic Republic has passed a letter of protest to the regional organisation concerning Iraq's violation of the Kuwait convention. He said Iran has also called for an immediate meeting of the members of the organisation to discuss the current problem and will permit experts from all regional countries, except Iraq to cooperate in preventing the pollution of the Persian Gulf.

Meanwhile, an official of the organisation told IRNA that despite reports published in the Kuwaiti press that Iraq had stopped its military activities in the polluted area, the Iraqi regime has not announced its official stand.

Prime Minister Musavi said on Sunday that Iran's Nowruz oil field had been hit by Iraqi fire, causing the present oil spill.

Pollution Proposal Approved

LD291330 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] The Kuwait convention's executive director for regional marine ecology of the Persian Gulf, who, accompanied by the director of the mutual assistance in marine emergencies, arrived in Tehran yesterday to study ways of preventing the harm caused by the oil slick resulting from the leaking of Nowruz oilfield created by the Zionist Iraqis, met and conferred with the deputy prime minister and the head of the environment protection organization as well as several officials of this organization this morning.

After the meeting, which lasted more than 3 hours, the head of the environment protection organization spoke to our correspondent on the outcome of the meeting:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, and the merciful. As the martyr-nurturing nation is aware, this hostile government has committed an inhuman act -- causing oil pollution in the Persian Gulf and probably in the Sea of Oman. We have already taken steps through efforts by our brothers in the Oil Ministry to control the oil wells in the specified areas. However, since the region has been designated by the Islamic Republic as a war zone, these people could not achieve complete progress and thus take measures to eliminate the pollution and control the oil wells.

Consequently, our brothers Al-Zaydan and Fakhro, representing the Kuwait convention, came to Iran to review ways of convening a session of the Council of Ministers. They are here to hold talks on methods of approaching the problem. Fortunately, these brothers themselves announced that this is primarily one of the functions of the Kuwait convention. Naturally, this is what we want. We want the Kuwait convention, which has some initial experience concerning pollution in the Persian Gulf, to deal with the hostile government which is preventing us from achieving our objective.

The proposal we tabled has received their approval. The plan now is to hold the session in the near future, so that the Council of Ministers may reach a resolute decision.

Another problem raised was that, as you know, most of the countries of the region have oil platforms in the Persian Gulf. The countries of the region must give proper assurances to each other because a country might begin striking at wells in the region and the subsequent pollution would not be confined to one country. Such action would threaten all the countries of the region with environmental problems and water pollution. The desalination systems of the littoral countries particularly would be threatened. Having said that, I must point out that oil pollution will pose more harm to these other countries than it will to us. [end recording]

The director of regional marine ecology of the Persian Gulf said in an interview with our correspondent: I believe we are facing a major problem which we must resolve through understanding and cooperation. He added: As an organization, we are duty-bound to safeguard all marine resources of the region. This is a duty of all eight members of the organization.

The director of mutual assistance in emergency cases also said: We are very pleased to meet with officials of your country's environmental protection organization. During our talks, we dealt with issues concerning the pollution of the Persian Gulf, its study, and ways to cooperate against it. During our talks, we enjoyed full understanding from the Iranian authorities. He added: The meeting was extremely useful. We hope, God willing, to solve this problem through cooperation.

Iran To Attend Meeting

GF291734 Tehran IRNA in English 1707 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Tehran, March 29, IRNA -- The director of the regional organisation for Persian Gulf marine environment protection (Kuwait convention), 'Abd al-Latif az-Zaydan, who was here to discuss ways of averting further contamination of the Persian Gulf waters by oil spill from Iran's Nowruz oil field, said here today that his talks with the Iranian officials were satisfactory and friendly.

He further told IRNA that following his talks with deputy prime minister and head of the organisation for protection of environment, Mirza Tahiri, he was familiarised with the sound views of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the issue. He further added that the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken effective measures to prevent contamination of Persian Gulf waters.

Az-Zaydan, who arrived here Monday accompanied by another official from the organisation, Khalid Muhammad Fakhru, hoped that the emergency meeting of the members of the organisation, to be held in Kuwait next week, would be able to make a firm and practical resolution on the issue.

As for damages caused to the Iranian oil wells as a result of the Iraqi aggression, without making a direct reference to Iraq, the Kuwaiti official said that obviously the environmental impact of such incidents could be disastrous. Leak of oil to Persian Gulf waters, he added, in addition to polluting the water would destroy marine life and result in economic losses as well. Furthermore, oil spill would interfere with the existing desalination activities upon which many of the Persian Gulf nations depend for their fresh water.

Prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran said Monday that Iran's Nowruz oil field had been hit by Iraqi fire which has triggered the oil spill.

Az-Zaydan, who left Tehran today, condemned the actions and hoped that the organisation would be able to forestall similar incidents in future. While praising steps taken by the Islamic Republic to stop the oil spill, Az-Zaydan said that unfortunately war conditions has slowed down the operations.

Fakhru told IRNA that the Iranian officials had been trying assiduously to control the pollution and give guarantee to protect lives of those who would be working on leakage control operations. He hoped that by taking similar trips to Iraq and other countries of the region and by holding the emergency meeting of the organisation, with cooperation of the member countries, a solution would be found to control the leakage and purification of the Persian Gulf marine environment and appropriate protective and preventive measures could be adopted.

Meanwhile, it was announced here today that the head of the organisation for protection of environment, Mirza Tahiri, would leave for Kuwait next Tuesday to attend the Kuwait convention meeting.

SYRIAN ECONOMIC DELEGATION BEGINS NEGOTIATIONS

LD291152 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Excerpts] The Syrian ministers for economy and foreign trade and oil and natural resources arrived in Tehran at the head of an economic delegation. They were welcomed by 'Asgar-Owladi-Mosalmen and Gharazi, ministers for commerce and petroleum of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Syrian minister of economy and foreign trade spoke of the negotiations to take place between the Syrian economic delegation and Iran. He told our correspondent: Econom'c relations between our two countries began some time ago and efforts have always been made to expand them. We hope this trip will strengthen the economic and trade relations between our two countries. He added: The negotiations between the Syrian delegation and Iran will be concerned with economic relations and oil issues. We hope these talks will have positive results for both countries.

Two Committees Formed

LD292210 Tehran IRNA in English 1953 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Tehran, March 29, IRNA -- A high-ranking oil and trade delegation from Syria headed by Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Salim Yasin met with Commerce Minister Habibollah 'Asgar-Owladi-Mosalman Tuesday. During this meeting the two parties discussed past commercial and oil agreements between the two countries as well as deliberating (?ways) of sending greater numbers of Iranian pilgrims to Syria.

At the end of the meeting it was decided that beginning Wednesday two committees on economy and trade, oil and banking issues be set up to study future cooperation.

The meeting was also attended by Syrian Oil and Natural Resources Minister 'Abd al-Jabbar al-Dahhak, Syrian Ambassador to Iran Ibrahim Ahmad al-Yunis and Iranian ambassador to Syria, Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi.

GHARAZI, TANZANIAN MINISTER AGREE ON OIL SALE 28 MAR

LD282252 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Al-Noor Kassum, Tanzanian minister of water and energy, accompanied by his entourage, this morning met and conferred with Oil Minister Gharazi. During this meeting, Iran agreed to the sale of 400,000 tons of crude oil to Tanzania during 1983.

Khamene'i Meets Minister

LD300102 Tehran IRNA in English 2003 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Mashhad, March 29 IRNA -- President 'Ali Khamene'i said in a meeting here with Tanzanian Water and Energy Minister Al-Noor Kassum Tuesday that the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy towards deprived by anti-arrogance (anti-colonialist) countries was for cooperation and establishing strong political and economic bonds.

President Khamene'i said a deceitful move by the arrogant countries of the world was evident in the region and people should be aware in order to foil their conspiracies. "The people of the region have shed their blood and have reached independence and world imperialism should not be allowed to chain them once again at any cost."

He added that world arrogant countries were a hollow phenomenon and they could be confronted with courage and boldness.

At this meeting the message of Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere was handed to President Khamene'i.

The Tanzanian envoy arrived in Tehran late last week and has held several meetings with Iranian officials.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,263

LD291731 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Communique No 1,263 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The powerful and victorious combatants of Islam, while maintaining their superior fighting power and enjoying very high moral vis-a-vis the Saddamist mercenaries, continue their relentless battle in defense of our sacred Islamic homeland. The results of the efforts and self-sacrifices of the combatants of Islam hereby are brought to the attention of our dear compatriots.

Sporadic exchanges of artillery and other heavy weapons fire continued yesterday on most of the western fronts of the country. The combatants of Islam, while controlling the Iraqi forces, opened fire on their positions destroying two enemy tanks and two engineering vehicles. Also, a large number of enemy troops were either killed or wounded. Thanks to the artillery fire of the combatants of the Ground Forces in the Marivan sector on enemy positions in the Rowshan region, parts of the Saddamists' positions were smashed and their fire was silenced and the enemy suffered considerable losses.

The powerful warriors of Islam on the southern fronts, while defending their own positions and regions under their protection, by opening defensive fire and by dispatching patrols against the enemy's defensive lines, controlled the movements and activities of the Iraqi forces and inflicted losses on the Saddamist mercenaries.

During the exchanges of fire on the Abadan front, the warriors of Islam fired on Saddamist positions on the other side of the Arvand Rud, silencing the fire of the Iraqi forces and preventing movement by the Saddamist mercenary forces along the Al-Faw-Basrah axis. The warriors of Islam also succeeded in destroying several enemy weapon bunkers and observation posts along with the servicemen deployed in them.

The cities of Abadan and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab yesterday came under artillery fire by the criminal Saddamist mercenaries; several houses were damaged in these two cities as a result. During the past 24 hours, the self-sacrificing warriors of the Air Force and the air defense units repulsed air intrusions by planes of the Iraqi aggressive armed forces over the western and southern border regions.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

MINIGROUP MEMBERS, WEAPONS CAPTURED IN MAHABAD

LD282225 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] The Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada headquarters, the headquarters for the joint operations by the Revolution Guards Corps and the Islamic Republic Army, has announced that following continuous efforts by the Revolution Guards Corps and a very effective cooperation by the Muslim inhabitants and hezbollahi members of Mahabad more than 20 hideouts belonging to the militant and dependent minigroups have been discovered and smashed over the past few days by the Islamic combatants in Mahabad.

During these highly successful operations 43 urban members of these minigroups, who are mercenaries of the East and West, were captured by the selfless Islamic troops. Some weapons and ammunition, including several sidearms, light weapons and several antivehicle and antipersonnel mines, along with a quantity of explosive detonators and documents, were also captured. Those captured had been organized into several urban terrorist teams. Also captured from those arrested were some documents proving their active participation in inhumane urban plots, including setting fire to communication facilities, hurling handgrenades, and other sabotage operations, including terrorizing Muslim Kurdish peshmerga and the Muslim people of Mahabad.

SUCCESSES AGAINST 'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES' DESCRIBED

LD291753 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] According to a dispatch from the Hamzeh Sayyed ash-Shohada Headquarters -- may peace be upon him -- Islam's combatants, made up of the heroes of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, selfless members of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the mobilization unit of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, intrepid forces of the Gendarmerie, and Muslim Kurdish peshmargas, yesterday, in the final phase of a relatively extensive operation which began 48 hours ago in the (Abi Hang) region deep in the Kamyaran-Marivan-Sanandaj triangle, succeeded in destroying all the positions of the counterrevolutionaries and in killing at least 25 armed outlaws.

During these operations, the hamlets of ('Isaabad), (Kalakeh), (Tar Zamin), (Hadyeh), and (Sar Hadyeh) were mopped up and (Abi Hang) and (Sang-e Sorkh) were occupied by Islam's combatants. Similarly, along the Bukan-Mahabad axis, Islam's combatants while continuing their advance, succeeded in destroying the position of the counterrevolutionaries in the (Tazeh Qal'eh) hamlet and liberated about 10 km of the Bukan-Mahabad highway from the occupation of outlaws and counterrevolutionaries.

On the Saqqez-Marivan axis, Islam's combatants, while clashing with counterrevolutionaries around the villages of (Hasan Talaran) and (Urullak), succeeded in killing at least eight members of the counterrevolutionary minigroups waging battle against God. Among the bodies of the armed outlaws left behind, the body of the military commander of the counterrevolutionaries, a well-known capitalist in the area, could be seen.

The dispatch from the Hamzeh Sayyed ash-Shohada Headquarters -- may peace be upon him -- also notes that during those operations eight subservient outlaws were also captured by Islam's combatants and appreciable quantities of booty, including arms, ammunition, vehicles, and intergroup documents and proof, were captured by Islam's combatants.

It is noteworthy that during the (Abi Hang) operations, which began at 0400 on 27 March, under the name of "Shohada-ye Belad," codenamed "Ya Rasul Allah" -- may God's benediction and peace be upon him and his scion -- under the command of the Hamzeh Sayyed ash-Shohada Headquarters -- may peace be upon him -- this region, which had been under the occupation of outlaws and counterrevolutionaries subservient to global arrogance since the beginning of the Islamic Revolution, was liberated and Islam's powerful warriors, in the course of these operations carried out in order to stabilize and safeguard the security of the Sanandaj-Marivan axis and the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic in the region and to implement the noble goals of Islam, recaptured 13 hamlets from the counterrevolutionaries.

The unprecedented welcome accorded by the Muslim inhabitants of the region to Islam's combatants confirms the growth of the popular movement and the final fall of the counterrevolutionary minigroups in the region.

SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT SPEAKS TO KORDESTAN STUDENTS

LD251228 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Our correspondent reports that a number of students in schools and teacher training colleges in Marivan, Bijar, Kamyaran, Sanandaj, Saqqez, Qorveh, and Baneh, accompanied by their teachers, this morning met with Supreme Court President Musavi-Ardabili. During the meeting, an official from the students camp in Kordestan Province spoke about the problems in Kordestan Province.

In a speech about solutions to Kordestan's existing problems, Musavi-Ardabili said: It is the duty of all officials to try to solve these problems so that last year's problems will not be carried over to the following year. The supreme court president referred to the Kurdish difficulties in connection with dependent minigroups: We hope we will be able to fulfill our duties to the Kurds during the coming year, so that our brothers and sisters in that region will not be faced with any more difficulties.

Referring to past events in Kordestan and the satans' plots to implement their evil designs in that region, he said: It is true that they managed to deceive some people and for a time they turned that area into a war zone. However, as they were fighting against Islam and the Koran, they were defeated. History has shown that anyone who fights against God is destroyed; they also will be destroyed. He said: We hope the problem of the minigroups in Kordestan will be solved finally and that this government and this country will no longer have a Kurdish problem. The Kurds themselves are fighting against the Komeleh, the Democrats, and toher counterrevolutionary minigroups. Therefore, American imperialism will no longer be able to achieve anything.

Later in his speech, referring to government policies on the development of deprived areas and the results of some of the measures taken in that region, Musavi-Ardabili said: When you become acquainted with Islamic policies, culture, principles, and morality, when you educate the people of the region and expose the deceit of those who have set up a trap, and when you discover how the enemy wants to deceive us, this realization will blunt the enemy's weapon. He added: Islam and the Koran expect us to be dedicated. You are the beloved children of Islam and this system belongs to all of us. Therefore, we should try not to leave the path of Islam and the Koran.

PRESIDENT KHAMENE'I PROPOSES 'SELF-RELIANCE' CRUSADE

LD281937 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president and head of the Supreme Defense Council, on the second day of his trip to Hormozgan Province, this morning attended the morning ceremonies held by the personnel of the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman sea fleet. The ceremonies also were attended by Brigadier General Zahirnezhad, chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Navy and Air Force commanders, as well as a number of state, military, and provincial officials. After the military ceremonies, the president made an important speech. Addressing the personnel of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman sea fleet, he referred to the strong ties among the various organizations of the Islamic Republic, saying: These ties stem from Islamic ideology. He added: Pious and self-sacrificing individuals, those who bring peace and comfort to and serve others with their existence, activities, and efforts are more revered in the Islamic Republic.

Referring to pressure exerted by the hegemonist and expansionist powers of the world against the struggling nation of Iran and the numerous plots hatched by America and its allies, he said: This pressure has led to a great proportion of our forces engaging in attempts to counteract the pressure and the plots. This same all-round struggle of ours against the plots means that our nation senses completely the hostility of the superpowers.

Referring to the imposed war, the president said: This war, too, was imposed on us by them; we did not want to fight any of our neighbors. We extended a friendly hand toward all our neighbors; but we could not tolerate any hand extended toward us in treachery. We will sever any hand extended toward our country, nation, revolution, and Islamic Republic in treachery, thievery, and conspiracy.

The president added: Our neighbors must not try to interfere in our internal affairs for, in order to safeguard our revolution -- a revolution wedded to our nation's life -- we need internal decisiveness. [as heard] Anyone who takes a path contrary to the internal interests of this nation, anyone resisting or fighting the revolution, will be dealt with quite decisively. We would regard anyone collaborating with our enemies as an outcast. He continued: No government, no power, no neighbor or non-neighbor has any right to interfere in our internal affairs or to protest our decisive measures taken against xenophiles. This is an internal affair, something we ourselves control.

Continuing his remarks and citing the heavy responsibility shouldered by those living in this country, the president said: Everyone must discharge his duties to the best of his abilities. However, should there be anyone who does not want to carry out his duties, then we will leave him alone; nor does this society attach any significance to him.

Addressing the Armed Forces personnel, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council said: You must exert all your efforts to become self-reliant, for we are determined not to extend our hand to anyone for help. We are determined to bring our enemies -- who think we will need their aid for a few weapons -- to their knees. We are determined to live within our own means. Consequently, we must safeguard whatever we have and manufacture the parts required by our machinery, make the complex systems and military equipment. The president added: We must become self-reliant. This is not simply a slogan; it is an order. It is a policy. All activities and tactics must lead us closer to various techniques. He emphasized: One must give a free rein to all ideas and innovations which are necessary for the creation of an independent army.

Explaining the ideas and innovations that have emerged in the country since the economic blockade in industrial sectors, the president said: What our enemies, the U.S. computers, failed to guess was the active and faithful brains of young Iranians and their verve and creativity in making use of a great amount of discarded and damaged equipment and the creation, adaptation, and repair of a great amount of equipment. If they could realize what we have managed to achieve, they would die of frustration. With the permission of the commander in chief, a great leader, I will make a definite proposal to the Joint Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic and the brave commanders to create a post of deputy for each of the forces for a self-reliance crusade [jahad-e khod kafa'i] so that the creative forces that can make us self-reliant may combine and serve us. In this matter, all military and civilian brothers must cooperate with us.

Military Hail Proposal

LD290956 Tehran IRNA in English 0913 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Mashhad, March 29, IRNA -- Chief of the Joint Staff General Zahirnezhad said here Sunday that President Khamene'i's proposal for the creation of a post of deputy for self-sufficiency in the Armed Forces was a means to reach self-sufficiency in defensive technology.

He stressed that defence power was a guarantee for the country's political independence and that gaining this power would be impossible in the absence of faithful and prepared people as well as defensive technology.

He proposed that such a programme be implemented in all organisations and revolutionary institutions in order to reach a general self-sufficiency.

Commander of the Air Force Col. Mo'inpur welcomed the proposal and said that it was necessary for the Armed Forces especially the Air Force which had a complicated technique. He added that activities were underway and the way was paved for the implementation of the project in the Air Force.

AFP: TUDEH PARTY MEMBERS TO BE TRIED PUBLICLY

NC281334 Paris AFP in English 1307 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Tehran, March 28 (AFP) -- Some members of Tudeh, the Iranian communist party, will be publicly tried on charges of "subversion and espionage," Chief Prosecutor Hojjat ol-Eslam Huseyn Musavi-Tabrizi told the daily ETTELA'AT in an interview published here today.

The daily ISLAMIC REPUBLIC had recently reported that 30 Tudeh members, including Secretary-General Nureddin Kianuri, had been arrested on February 5.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Tabrizi told ETTELA'AT: "There is no doubt that some of them acted to topple the Islamic Republic. But, for the moment, I can say neither how -- whether armed or unarmed -- nor when, the attempt was to have taken place."

The prosecutor also said that a number of people held in connection with Tudeh had been freed, but would neither identify them, nor say how many were still under arrest.

NVOI Condemns Trial

TA260509 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Unattributed commentary: "Our Homeland's Proud History Will Never Forgive Conspiracy Against the Iranian Tudeh Party"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: In his meeting with the country's high-ranking political and military officials, the clergy and various strata on the occasion of the Nowruz festival, Imam Khomeyni, addressing officials of the judicial branch, said: The judicial branch must pay heed since it is dealing with the people's lives and property.

One and a half months have passed since the arrest of the leaders and members of the Iranian Tudeh Party, one of the oldest revolutionary parties of our homeland, which for 41 years has been struggling with utmost persistence to secure the country's freedom and independence, to liberate Iran's toiling strata from the yoke of the despotic rule of the royal dictatorship and from the captivity of a handful of plundering feudalists and capitalists and their overseas masters, and to maintain social justice. The Iranian Tudeh Party has offered thousands of sacrifices toward this end, and its leadership alone was incarcerated for more than 3 centuries. [as heard] It is a party that has participated with all its power and being to secure the victory of our nation's glorious revolution; and, following the revolution's victory it also has so far been one of the effective and primary factors in the perpetuation and expansion of the revolution's gains and in safeguarding the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

However, so far not only is there no sign of the release of these noble and pure sons of the Iranian nation, but as a result of the pressure of the ultrarightists, the superficials, and the hojjatis and of penetrating U.S. elements in judicial and government organizations, they are even preparing to allegedly bring them to trial. It is ironic that in revolutionary Iran they want to carry out the plan of allegedly trying the leaders and members of the Iranian Tudeh Party on the basis of dossiers compiled by SAVAK. This is something which even the accursed shah and his murdering organization, SAVAK, could not do.

The other noteworthy point is that the leaders and members of the Iranian Tudeh Party were arrested on the orders of and are allegedly to be tried by the same persons with whom they were co-prisoners for a long time in the shah's prison. According to the testimony of many struggling Muslims who were co-prisoners with the Tudeh during the regime of the accursed shah, the struggling Muslims jailed in the shah's prison always enjoyed the moral support and comprehensive assistance of the Tudeh. Our homeland's people are well aware of the deep and eternal respect of the late Ayatollah Taleqani and other former co-prisoners of the Tudeh toward these pure, courageous, and dissenting sons. The late Ayatollah Taleqani used to call his Tudeh co-prisoners the true children of the homeland.

Our homeland's people and our country's proud history will never forgive conspiracy against these true children of the revolution. Such lawlessness, obstinacy, and vengeance-seeking will not achieve anything for these plotters except eternal disgrace and shame. These are facts which the sincere followers of the imam's line in the Islamic leadership and the struggling Muslims must never forget for a single moment, particularly because the scheme to suppress the dissenting revolutionary forces following the imam's and the revolution's genuine line is the start of a great plot against the popular and anti-imperialist revolution and against all sincere followers of the revolution's and the imam's genuine line and the struggling Muslims in the Islamic leadership.

One also must not overlook the lesson of history that in all emancipated countries, imperialism, headed by world-devouring U.S. imperialism, always started implementing the plan of defeating popular and anti-imperialist revolutions through the conspiracy of suppressing the true forces of the revolution, under cover of anticommunist struggles.

In accordance with the imam's decree one must strive with utmost power to establish the rule of law in the country, and must not allow the foes and opponents of the revolution's and the imam's genuine line -- these rightists and superficials, these American hojjatis and the penetrating elements of the great Satan in the Islamic leadership -- to implement the U.S. plan and the counterrevolution in sowing discord among the true Revolutionary forces on undermining and defeating the Islamic Republic.

VELAYATI SENDS MESSAGE TO 'FRONTLINE STATES' MEETING

LD292006 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] In connection with support for the struggle waged by the Namibian people for their independence, Mr Velayati, our country's minister of foreign affairs, sent a message to the international conference of solidarity with the frontline states held in Lisbon 25-27 March 1983. The message, read by the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador to Madrid to the high-ranking representatives of the frontline states, including Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, the leaders of the African Nation Congress, SWAPO, and high-ranking representatives from a great many African, Asian, Latin American, and European countries, and from nongovernment organizations, said:

The Islamic Republic of Iran firmly supports the resolutions and measures aimed at backing the brave people of Namibia toward their obtaining independence and their liberation from the overlordship of the racist regime of South Africa. It firmly believes that one of the effective factors for the preservation of peace, security, and world justice would be constituted by Namibia's liberation from the shackles of colonialism.

Another part of the message reads: The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns the racist policies of South Africa. In accordance with this policy, following the victory of the Islamic Revolution, it broke off all ties with the racist regime of South Africa.

In conclusion the message from our country's minister of foreign affairs emphasized: The Islamic Republic of Iran officially recognizes SWAPO as the sole lawful representative of the people of Namibia and declares its complete and effective support for any measure which could assist that organization toward securing Namibia's independence.

The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns the support given by U.S. imperialism to the racist regime of South Africa.